

## REVISED PATENT RULES FOR EXPEDITED EXAMINATION: GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

Date: March 03, 2011

As of March 3, 2011 it will be possible to request expedited examination of patent applications which are related to Green Technologies.

Applicants may request expedited examination of pending applications by filing a request for advanced examination together with an applicant declaration indicating the application relates to technologies, which once commercialized, will help to resolve or mitigate environmental impacts or conserve the natural environment and resources. Currently, no additional government fees are required for requesting advanced examination of applications related to Green Technologies.

For applications granted advanced examination, a first Office Action from the Canadian Patent Office can be expected to be received within two months from the date the request is processed.

Under the revised Patent Rules, applicants will not be granted expedited examination if after April 30, 2011 either the application has been abandoned or an extension of time has been granted. In order to preserve eligibility for expedited examination, applicants whose patent applications are currently abandoned must take the necessary steps to obtain the reinstatement of their applications on or before April 30, 2011.

In addition to expediting examination of applications related to green technologies, it remains possible for any person, upon payment of a fee, to request expedited examination of an application if the failure to grant expedited examination would prejudice that person's rights, or to advance examination of applications under the Patent Prosecution Highway program.